

NOV 03 2006

REMARKS

In the second non-final office action mailed August 4, 2006, claims 1 and 3-44 were pending and claims 1, 3, 4, 7-10, 13-15, 21-26, 28, 30, and 31 stand rejected. The Applicants thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 16-20, 27, 29, and 32-44 contain allowable subject matter. With this amendment, applicants have amended claims 1 and 21 and cancelled claim 16. Claims 1, 3-15, and 17-44 are currently pending. In view of the following amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 15, 21-24, 28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,482,971 to Golson (hereinafter "Golson") and claims 8-10, 13, 14, 25, 26, and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golson in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,300,541 to Burgin.

With this amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of objected to claim 16 and claim 16 has been cancelled. Claim 16 was objected to by the Examiner but indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of this basis of rejection and allowance of amended claim 1 is respectfully requested.

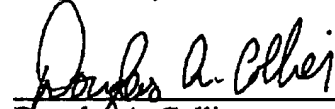
Dependent claims 3-15 and 17-20 all depend from amended independent claim 1 or intervening dependent claims and are submitted to be patentable for at least the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of independent claim 1.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite "said body further including an outer wall surface masked along at least a portion of a length of said body between said distal end proximal ends to prevent light from transmitting through said masked outer surface portion." Golson fails to disclose a body with an outer wall surface masked along at least a portion of a length to prevent light from transmitting through the masked portion. Accordingly, withdrawal of this basis of the rejection of amended claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Dependent claim claims 22-34 all depend from amended independent claim 21 or intervening dependent claims and are submitted to be patentable for at least the reasons set forth above in support of the patentability of independent claim 21.

Reconsideration of the present application as amended and including claims 1, 3-15 and 17-44 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve any outstanding issues with respect to the present application.

Respectfully submitted:



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